

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-16

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 IO-14 ISO-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 EB-11

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DRAFTED BY NEA/ARP:SWBUCK:BG
APPROVED BY NEA/ARP:FMDICKMAN
NEA/ARN:TMDEFORD
SCA/SCS: MR. LIVORNESE (SUBS)
EUR/WE:CFLOYD (INFO)

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R 121803Z JUN 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY SANAA
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY ATHENS
USMISSION USUN NY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124535

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: BGEN, LE, YS, UK
SUBJECT: NATIONAL CASH REGISTER EMPLOYEE DETAINED IN PDRY
REF: (A) BEIRUT 5862 (NOTAL), (0) LONDON 6402 (NOTAL)
(C) ATHENS 3020 (NOTAL)

1. APPEARS LEBANESE HAVE BEEN MORE ACTIVE IN WORKING FOR
NCR REP DICK'S RELEASE THAN INITIALLY INDICATED TO UK
EMB OFFICER (REF A). SUGGEST YOU PASS FOLLOWING TO
FCO, WHICH REPORTED TO DEPARTMENT BY NCR VP GILLAN.

2. ON HEARING OF DICK'S ARREST, DAOUD RAHAL, A RELATION
AND LEBANESE INTERIOR MINISTRY OFFICIAL, WENT TO
DAMASCUS MAY 22 AND MET WITH VISITING PDRY INTERIOR
MINISTER SALI MUSLIH. MUSLIH HAD FULL DETAILS ON
DICK'S ARREST. HE SAID DICK HAD BEEN DETAINED ALONG
WITH 12 SOUTH YEMENIS ON SUSPICION OF BEING PART OF A
SPY RING.

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3. DURING JUNE 4-11 VISIT TO ADEN, LEBANON'S AMBASSADOR TO YAR, WHO ALSO ACCREDITED TO PDRY, SUCCEEDED IN OBTAINING ACCESS TO DICK FOR HIMSELF AND DICK'S BRITISH WIFE. DICK WAS IN POOR SHAPE BOTH MENTALLY AND PHYSICALLY. WHEN ARRESTED HE HAD BEEN WORKING OUT THE DETAILS OF THE SALE OF AN NCR COMPUTER TO THE ADEN ELECTRICITY BOARD. DURING THE MEETING HE TOLD HIS WIFE THAT HE HAD BEEN ARRESTED BECAUSE ONE FACTION WITHIN THE PDRY GOVERNMENT FEARED THAT PURCHASE OF A COMPUTER WOULD GIVE A FOREIGN COMPANY TOO MUCH ACCESS TO INFORMATION ON PDRY. LEBANESE AMBASSADOR WAS JOINED BY NCR REP FROM DJIBOUTI, WHO WAS FOLLOWED CONTINUALLY BY PDRY SECURITY AND EXPELLED FROM ADEN IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING AMBASSADOR'S DEPARTURE.

4. NCR CONCERNED THAT DICK MAY NOT BE ABLE TO LAST MUCH LONGER IN CONFINEMENT. THEY PLAN TO ASK LEBANESE EDUCATION MINISTER TO VISIT ADEN ON IS BEHALF.

5. FOR SANAA: WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFORMATION LEBANESE AMBASSADOR CAN PROVIDE ON CASE AND MORE GENERALLY CONDITIONS IN ADEN. WE TOLD BY NCR THAT WORD IS OUT IN DJIBOUTI THAT REPRESENTATIVES OF US FIRMS, EVEN IF THIRD COUNTRY NATIONALS, SHOULD NOT TRAVEL TO ADEN BECAUSE OF PDRY HOSTILITY. DOES LEBANESE AMBASSADOR BELIEVE DICK'S ARREST IS ONLY A SPECIFIC INCIDENT, PERHAPS RELATED TO HIS PAST ASSOCIATIONS IN ADEN, OR REPRESENTATIVE OF PDRY GOVERNMENT ATTITUDE TOWARDS REPRESENTATIVES OF ANY US FIRM?

6. NCR VP GILLAN WROTE PDRY UN PERMREP AL-ASHTAL MAY 29 AND DISCUSSED CASE WITH HIM BY PHONE JUNE 11. AL-ASHTAL PROFESSED IGNORANCE OF CASE BUT SAID HE HAD FORWARDED LETTER TO ADEN AND WOULD MAKE FURTHER INQUIRY TO ADEN BY CABLE.

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